



The President's Daily Brief

28 May 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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ICELAND

The crippling of a British trawler on Saturday underscores Iceland's determination not to resume fishing negotiations as long as UK warships remain in the disputed area. All political parties as well as the general public support this position. On Friday, Reykjavik rejected a Norwegian offer to mediate and is now considering raising the issue in the UN and NATO. The Icelanders would seek condemnation of the UK's introduction of warships into the 50 mile zone, or failing that, at least obtain a forum for airing their complaints.

Government and opposition spokesmen continue to press for a "positive US role" in resolving the crisis and to warn that Washington's failure to act could have a negative impact on negotiations concerning the base at Keflavik.

Threats by some leaders that Iceland may withdraw from NATO--on grounds that it failed to prevent the British "invasion"--seem premature. Further incidents at sea, however, are likely, particularly as the US-French summit nears.

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CHINA-THAILAND

[REDACTED] Peking has offered to discuss
the Thai insurgency with Bangkok.

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NOTE

South Vietnam:

[redacted] the SA-2 unit at Khe Sanh fired at an SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft on May 27 but missed it. This was the first known firing by the SAM unit since it moved into South Vietnam just prior to the cease-fire last January.

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